



Life Changing Words From God Week #5 Confession

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Confession

- To confess our sin is to agree with God, acknowledging that he is right to declare what we have done as sinful and that we are wrong to desire or to do it. It means affirming our intention of forsaking that sin in order to follow God more faithfully. (from Life Application Bible Copyright © 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991 by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved.)

‘keep short accounts with God’.

- Confession requires no formal setting.
- Confession requires an intermediary, but not an earthly one. (1st Timothy 2:5)
- Confession is good for the soul and is more than a trite axiom.
- To ignore confession is to inhibit the blessing of God.

‘keep short accounts with God’.

- Isa 59:2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. KJV
- 1 Peter 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." NIV

Psalm 51

- David's statements in Psalm 51 are in this context:
 - He was a murderer
 - He was an adulterer
 - He was a deceiver
 - He disappointed God
 - He was humiliated
 - He loathed himself
- When we read his words, all of us understand his feelings even if our sins are not as public and not as grievous.

Psalm 51

- And yet for all of the pain that is revealed in David's prayerful confession this psalm has served to comfort countless sinners down through the years as they discover the 'David' in themselves.
- If David, the 'man after God's own heart' could fall so deeply into sin then surely my sin came as no surprise to God.
- And if David could climb out of that hole that he dug, then surely there is hope for me.

Psalm 51

- As we go through his confession notice that at no time does he blame anyone, but himself.
- He uses the bluntest of terms and spills out all that he is feeling in his heart and for the most part what comes out is;
 - Disgust for himself
 - Confidence in God

Psalm 51

- From experience I can tell you that I know that I have confessed when I *blame no one but me, hold myself in contempt, am determined to repent, and have a deep appreciation for the grace of God.*
- God is not looking for *perfect people*; He is looking for people who will be *perfectly honest* with Him.

Ps 51:1-2

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness;
According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my
transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and
cleanse me from my sin. NKJV

- His first plea is for mercy; hold back that which I am due.
- He is most fortunate to know God because in that relationship he knows of His willingness and ability to forgive.
- David has a sense of the books of our deeds because he asks for his sins to be blotted out. (Rev 20:12)

Ps 51:1-2

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According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my
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- Perhaps even more than wanting them off his own record is his desire to have them out of God's sight.
- His next request is one that we too can relate to; he feels dirty. He wants to be washed and cleansed.
 - **Wash 'kabac' to be washed roughly**
 - **Cleanse 'taher' to be bright; ceremonially clean.**
 - **John 13:10**

Ps 51:3

For I acknowledge my transgressions,
And my sin is always before me.

NKJV

- One way that you know that you are ready to biblically confess is that *our attention is fixed on our sin.*
- It is as though nothing else really matters until you take care of business between yourself and God.
- When your sin grabs your attention you are experiencing an important ministry of the Holy Spirit.
(John 16:7-11)

Ps 51:4

4 Against You, You only, have I sinned,
And done this evil in Your sight —
That You may be found just when You speak,
And blameless when You judge. NKJV

- Think about this David drew Bathsheba into adultery, he murdered Uriah, he had embarrassed his family, and a baby died, but he says that he had sinned only against God.
- Remember how Jesus told us in Luke 14:26 that unless you hate your father and mother that you cannot follow Him? (this is the same sort of perspective contrast)
- It's not that no one else was hurt, it's just that when I compare sinning against God to sinning against another person the sin against God is so much more grievous that it's like the others do not count.

Ps 51:4

4 Against You, You only, have I sinned,
And done this evil in Your sight —
That You may be found just when You speak,
And blameless when You judge. NKJV

- David also has a keen sense of the omniscience of God ‘done this evil in your sight’.
- He also acknowledges that whatever judgment God may decide to dole out would be perfectly justified.
- In short, David is offering no defense ... the repentant heart does not seek to blame or implicate others.

Ps 51:5

**5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
And in sin my mother conceived me.
NKJV**

- Here we see the doctrine of original sin. David is not saying that he was the product of an illicit sexual act He is pointing to the problem that we all face; a sin nature.
- Even here he is not seeking an ‘out’ from his responsibility, but is merely acknowledging our life long problem; we (our old nature) desire to sin.

Ps 51:6

6 Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts,
And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.

NKJV

- 1st Samuel 16:7 – ‘God looks on the heart’
- 1st Peter 3:4 – ‘let it be the hidden man of the heart’
- Jer 31:33 – ‘I will put my law in their inward parts’
- We are constantly dealing with the deeds of the flesh, but at the end of the day it is our heart that God wants to perfect.

Ps 51:7

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

NKJV

- He has confessed his sin; he has acknowledged his responsibility; now he just wants to start fresh.
- When we are all dirty and sweaty there is nothing that feels so good as a hot shower. We feel completely different when we get clean.
- When we sin; and then confess it, there is nothing that feels better than starting fresh and clean in our walk with the Lord.

Ps 51:8

8 Make me hear joy and gladness,
That the bones You have broken may rejoice.

NKJV

- Believers know the ‘crushing work’ of the Holy Spirit when He convicts us of sin.
- When He is doing His convicting work He seeks to grab our attention and not let go until we come clean with Him.
- When He convicts there is a heaviness that comes over us that can only be described as a crushing weight that is *too heavy to carry very long or very far.*

Ps 51:8

8 Make me hear joy and gladness,
That the bones You have broken may rejoice.

NKJV

- It is both the worst of feelings and the best of feelings all in one.
- The worst because of how it crushes.
- The best because of how it assures us that we are His. (Hebrews 12:7-8)

Ps 51:9-10

9 Hide Your face from my sins,
And blot out all my iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O
God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. NKJV

- Now we see more evidence that David is just like us; he is so excited at the thought of being forgiven that he starts to repeat himself.
 - Don't look at my sin
 - Blot out my transgression
 - Make me clean
- Steadfast here means 'loyal', 'erect', or 'sturdy'; the thought in view is an attitude of solid obedience.
- *He wants his 'want to' back.*

Ps 51:11

11 Do not cast me away from Your presence,
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

NKJV

- Forget for a moment that neither of these actions are likely on our side of the cross; instead think in terms of power and fellowship.
- When we sin and have to face it we can envision God banishing us from His presence because we sense that is what we deserve.
- We can also envision Him leaving us because that would be our reaction.

Ps 51:11

11 Do not cast me away from Your presence,
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

NKJV

- Neither of those actions are likely, but we should be concerned about (3) things:
 - That we would lose power
 - That we would weaken our fellowship with Him
 - That we would miss opportunities

Ps 51:12-13

12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit. 13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You. NKJV

- Once we have confessed and worked through all of the emotions of repentance, then we long for our Father to say ‘all is well’.
- We cannot wait for things to be ‘right’ between us again.
- We are anxious to start serving Him again.

Ps 51:12-13

12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit. 13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You. NKJV

- After confession, get going quickly for God.
- Do not trust your feelings, trust His word.
- It may be a long time until you can forgive yourself, but that is not the case with God; He forgave you 2,000 years ago.

1 John 1:9

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

NKJV

- A conditional arrangement; *If we* confess, **He will** forgive.
- We agree that we are wrong, and He will make us right.
- We admit that we need washed, and He will clean us up.
- ‘all unrighteousness’ No sin is too big, or too bad. They are all covered.

Gal 6:1

Live creatively, friends. If someone falls into sin, forgivingly restore him, saving your critical comments for yourself. You might be needing forgiveness before the day's out.

(from THE MESSAGE:)

- For all that we said about confession and forgiveness for ourselves let us not forget that we are all in this thing together.
- We have a responsibility to help others know both God's forgiveness and our forgiveness.
- Remember the parable of the unforgiving servant in Matt 18:21-32.

Questions

